



Appointments and Briefings

June 09, 2015 – 7:00 PM – **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

1. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Duarte, requesting that the City reach out to the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School for the purpose of refurbishing our trolleys that are now close to two decades old and in need of serious repair work especially on the wood portions of the trolleys and these Councillors feel that Voc-Tech can be of significant help in refurbishing said trolleys which are a beacon within the City and the expertise of the Vocational students to perform this work would be greatly appreciated. (Ref'd 8/16/12, 12/10/13 – Remain in Committee, 03/18/14 – tabled, 09/16/14 – Letters, 03/31/15 – remain in Committee)

INVITEES: Voc-Tech Coordinator of Construction & Drafting, Thaddeus Haggerty; DPI Commissioner, Ron Labelle

2. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, ONCE AGAIN, that the School Department consider implementation of school uniforms throughout the New Bedford School System; and further, requesting that members of the School Committee appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings for the purpose of discussing the implementation of the school uniforms and to also discuss security measures proposed by the City Council, such as an emergency silent alarm system and what, if any security measures have been put in place throughout the New Bedford Schools. (Ref'd 10/24/13, 09/16/14 – tabled, 3/10/15 - tabled)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Pia Durkin; New Bedford Public Schools, Interim Business Manager, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Dr. Michael J. Langworthy and a representative from the Mayor's office, representatives from the School Committee, a representative from the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth and a representative from SeaLab, for the purposes of discussing a possible venture project of education and research with Dr. Langworthy and the Mars Project upon his research vessel. (03/27/14, 09/16/14 – table for 90 days and bring both parties back to check progress on project, 3/10/15 – tabled for 60 days)

INVITEES: Dr. Michael J. Langworthy; Rep. of the Mayor, Christina Connelly; School Committee Vice-Chairman, Bruce Oliveira; UMASS Dartmouth, Professor, Alan W. Hirshfeld, Ph.D.; SeaLab Representative, Simone Bourgis

4. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Winterson, Council President Lopes, Councillors Morad and Carney, requesting, a clarification from the New Bedford School Department regarding the scheduling of school bus service for the City of New Bedford, what has transpired this school semester which has resulted in hundreds of children from all areas of the City left without any means of transportation to and from school; and further, why parents are not given any advance notification of these changes which

have left many with no alternative but to hire a taxi, which they cannot afford, to bring their children to school, this places additional stress on students even before classes begin; and further, parents would like this matter resolved without delay, considering Daylight Savings Times will soon come to an end, there is also a safety factor and weather factor to consider. (Ref'd 09/11/14, 3/10/15 - tabled)

- 4a. Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad, Bousquet, Alves, Gomes, Carney and Coelho, requesting, that a representative from each of the bus companies (Whaling City Transit, Reliable Bus Lines, Inc., and Tremblay Bus Company) who were awarded a bussing contract by the Members of the New Bedford School Committee for the 2014/2015 School Year, be invited to attend and speak at a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss the concerns that the members of the New Bedford City Council have, as it relates to the bussing routes that they were provided for the 2014/2015 School Year. (Ref'd 10/14/14, 3/10/15 - tabled)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Pia Durkin; School Committee Vice-Chairman, Bruce Oliveira; New Bedford Public Schools, Interim Business Manager, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch; New Bedford Public Schools, Transportation Supervisor, Joann Smith; Whaling City Transit, Transportation Coordinator/School Billing Representative, Lisa Neves; Reliable Bus Lines Inc., President/Director, Jeffery Graham; Tremblay Bus Company, School Bus Division Operations Manager, Nicole Cardoso

5. Written Motion, Councillor Winterson, Council President Lopes and Councillor Alves requesting, that the School Department inform the City Council as to what is the “student to teacher ratio” throughout the New Bedford School system on all levels Citywide, but specifically, the Betsy B. Winslow School, the Ellen R. Hathaway School and the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School, to include the number of out of district students, and also what is the student population in all public schools across New Bedford; and further, that the School Administration provide the Council with what they anticipate what is the School Department’s five-year projection plan; and further, requesting “ a response in writing” no later than thirty (30) days; and further, that said response include the number of student per school that English is their second language. (Ref'd 09/11/14, 3/10/15 - tabled)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Pia Durkin; School Committee Chairman, Bruce Oliveira; New Bedford Public Schools, Interim Business Manager, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch

6. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with members from Turowski 2 Architecture and Daedalus Projects, Inc., to discuss the progress being made on the MSBA Preliminary Design Program Submission for the “New” Hannigan School project. (Ref'd 01/22/15, 3/10/15 - tabled)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Pia Durkin; School Committee Vice-Chairman, Bruce Oliveira; New Bedford Public Schools, Interim Business Manager, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch;

Turowski2 Architecture, Senior Project Architect, Steven Lapin; Daedalus, Vice President and Sr. Project Manager, Sean Fennell, PE; Economic Development Council, Executive Director Derek Santos

7. Written Motion, Councillors Oliveira, Lopes, Council President Gomes, Councillors Martins, Winterson, Alves, Bousquet, Carney and Rebeiro, requesting that the School Administration conducts a feasibility study to develop a second entrance and exit to Pulaski School, and to consider any and all other alternatives to ameliorate the safety issue, this is the only elementary school in New Bedford hosting over 700 students from across the City and the immediate area lacks a second means of access/egress and in the case of emergency, having only one means of entrance and exiting the property could prove disastrous as these issues apply to all schools in New Bedford and should all be considered. (Ref'd 02/12/15, 3/10/15 - amended)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Pia Durkin; School Committee Vice-Chairman, Bruce Oliveira; New Bedford Public Schools, Interim Business Manager, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch